

3 The Backs Policy On CIA Recruiting

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UNIVERSITY

Mrs. Lake, Dean L.

Date

Org. 1 Columbia U.

~~Pres.~~ Truman, David B.

Sees Necessity to Shun Involvement in Politics

By Alan S. Lake

Dean David B. Truman strongly supported yesterday the University's policy of allowing the Central Intelligence Agency to recruit on the Columbia campus.

He said that the underlying issue in the recent demonstration against the CIA's presence on campus was an attempt to engage in the political controversy surrounding the agency and make Columbia a part of it.

"There is a world of difference between the university as an arena in which individuals can freely express themselves, and the institution taking a position in a political controversy," the Dean stated.

Dean Truman maintained that one of the conditions under which the university is able to act as a center for social innovation is that it not become an instrument of political action—a tool in the political arena.

"If that occurs, the university becomes like any other group in the political market place," the Dean declared. "If that were to occur, it would constitute a loss not only to the university, but also to society."

He said that universities in the United States have found themselves in the role of social innovators much more in recent years than in the early history of the country. "This role as an innovator is important to society, but in a sense it could be said that it is one which we are permitted by society to perform."

Dean Truman stated that he "would associate himself completely" with President Grayson Kirk's statement last week on his decision to allow the CIA to recruit at Columbia.

While he termed last week's confrontation between President Kirk and five hundred students "a very good idea," Dean Truman stated that he was disturbed by the discourtesy shown by some of the students. He said that he did not object to their disagreeing with President Kirk, but added that students should have treated him with respect.

David B. Truman

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